

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

For 1909,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

BY.

CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB., &c.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON :

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1909.

“ REDVERS,” EXMOUTH,

January 31st, 1910.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Budleigh
Salterton Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the duties of a Medical Officer of Health, I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the health of your District for the past year 1909.

You will notice that in the following pages the various sections are arranged in the same order as in my previous Annual Reports. This has been done purposely, such uniformity being found convenient and facilitating reference, both by yourselves and by other Authorities, amongst the latter being the Local Government Board, the Home Office, and the County Medical Officer, to all of whom copies of this Report are required to be sent.

In the following pages the usual tabulated information will be found, together with the number and causes of the registered deaths, the number of births, the cases of infectious disease reported, and the means taken to prevent their spread; a table showing an analysis of the two waters which supply the district, the method adopted for the disposal of the sewage and its efficiency, and in fact all matters of interest from a sanitary point of view which have come before you. The usual four statistical tables will be found at the end of the Report, these being:—

- 1.—The vital statistics for the whole District during 1909, as well as for the previous ten years, with averages of the same.
- 2.—The number and nature of the Notified Infectious Diseases, with age classification.
- 3.—The causes of, and ages at, death during the year.
- 4.—The causes of, and ages at, death of children dying under one year of age (Infant Mortality).

In addition to these four tables, there is one dealing with work done in connection with the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901; and lastly, there is a Report by the Sanitary Inspector of work carried out more especially under his supervision.

I. GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

For the purpose of compiling the following statistics, the population of Budleigh Salterton is estimated at 2,200 persons. The last decennial Census (in 1901) showed that there were 1,883 inhabitants.

The total number of deaths registered during the year amounted to 30, producing a death-rate at all ages of 13·6 per 1,000. The death-rate for the previous ten years averaged 16·0 per 1,000.

The deaths of the two sexes were fairly evenly divided, 16 being males and 14 females, but the average age at death was very different, that for the males being 44 years and for the females 73 years.

The following Table shows the deaths per quarter:—

	Jan., Feb., March.	April, May, June.	July, Aug., Sept.	Oct., Nov., Dec.
Males	1	5	4	6
Females.. ..	8	3	1	2
Total per quarter	9	8	5	8

The age-distribution of the District is peculiar, inasmuch as there is a great preponderance of elderly people amongst the population. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that many of the deaths occurred in persons who had reached, and in numerous cases exceeded, the allotted span of human life, if we take this period to be three-score years and ten. As a matter of fact there were 17 persons whose total ages at death amounted to 1,315 years, thus :—

65 and under 70	..	..	..	4
70 ,, 80	..	..	..	6
80 ,, 90	..	..	..	7
				—
Total ..				17
				—

The average age at death of these 17 persons being 77·3 years.

TABLE SHOWING AGES AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.

Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 60.	60 to 80.	80 upwards.
1	3	Nil	1	6	12	7

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—This is a term used to denote the number of deaths per 1,000 caused by any one or more of the “seven principal Zymotic diseases.” These seven diseases are Smallpox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (Typhus and Enteric) and Diarrhœa. One death (Whooping Cough) was registered during the year, the victim being a child of 17 months. The Zymotic death-rate was therefore ·45 per 1,000 population. This is practically the same as last year, and is an indication of the freedom from the above diseases in your District.

INFANT MORTALITY.—By this term is meant the number of children in a community dying under the age of twelve months, and for the sake of uniformity it is estimated at per 1,000 births. Only one infant died last year, at the age of one hour, the cause being certified as “Premature Birth.” This gives an infant

mortality rate of 30·0 per 1,000 children born, being lower than the average for the last ten years, viz., 49·2. The causes of infant mortality are very numerous, and some of them are preventible. Epidemics of Scarlet Fever, Measles, &c., are fruitful causes of mortality amongst infants, and so are improper feeding, clothing and unhealthy environment. An infant mortality rate of 30·0 is extremely low, and is an indication that children born in your District receive due parental care ; and it also shows, incidentally, that the District was free from any epidemic of the diseases usually associated with a high infant mortality.

BIRTHS.—During the year 33 births were registered, 16 males and 17 females, producing a birth-rate of 15·0 per 1,000. In 1908 it was 13·8, and for the previous ten years 14·4. This is, of course, a very low rate, but a diminishing birth-rate is apparent throughout the country, and is due to many causes, some of which have been mentioned in previous reports. In your District the principal factor in this diminution of births is probably the “ age-distribution ” of the inhabitants, there being a marked preponderance of elderly persons amongst the population.

TABLE SHOWING POPULATION, BIRTHS, DEATHS AND
DEATH-RATES FROM CERTAIN DISEASES.

Population 1909.	Births per 1,000.	Deaths per 1,000.	Zymotic Death-Rate.	Tuber- culosis.	Heart Disease.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Senility.	Cerebral.
2,200	15·0	13·6	0·45	0·9	0·9	0·4	1·3	2·7	3·6

When this table is compared with that of last year, it will be seen that there are no deaths from Pulmonary Consumption, the deaths due to Heart Disease are fewer, those from Pneumonia just half, and Cancer the same. The “ Cerebral ” causes show an increase, these causes being hæmorrhagic in nature and constituting what is usually understood as “ Apoplexy.” The deaths due to

"Senility," no specific disease being mentioned, also form a fairly large group. It is gratifying to note that no deaths occurred from any of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and with the exception of 1908, when one death was reported, there has been no death from this group of diseases for five years. It will be admitted that this is an excellent record for any place, and especially for a seaside resort like Budleigh Salterton, which depends for its prosperity, in great measure, upon its clean bill of health.

II. AREA AND DENSITY OF POPULATION.

The total area of the District is 840 acres, and the number of persons per acre 2·6. The approximate number of inhabited houses is 545, and the average number of persons per house 4·0.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED TO THE DISTRICT, IN GRAINS PER GALLON.

	SHERBROOK.		KERSBROOK.	
Mineral Matter	8·3	..	24·5	
Chlorides (as Chlorine) ..	2·7	..	2·1	
Temporary Hardness	·4	..	13·6	
Permanent Hardness	2·4	..	2·1	
Total Hardness	2·8	..	15·7	
Nitrites	·0	..	·0	
Nitrates (as Nitrogen)	0·3	..	0·3	
Saline Ammonia	·0	..	·0	
Albuminoid Ammonia	·001	..	·0	
Poisonous Metals	absent	..	absent	

There have been no complaints about the water, either in quality or quantity, during the year, and the analysis of each water by the Public Analyst still continues to be very favourable, as the subjoined extracts from his report show. Referring to the *Sherbrook* supply he says: "The sample of Sherbrook water differs from the samples previously analysed, in containing no

soluble organic material, or vegetable acid. The change is a decided improvement, and is a source of satisfaction, since, owing to its absence, the excellent purity of the water is thrown into more striking relief by the results of analysis."

The same authority, reporting on the sample of *Kersbrook* water submitted to him, says: "The Kersbrook water exhibits no important variation from the normal in respect of any constituent. The general quality continues satisfactory and the purity is excellent."

From these reports it is obvious that your District enjoys a water of undoubted purity, and at present the quantity is quite adequate for all purposes, so that Budleigh Salterton possesses one of the principal factors for the maintenance of its population in a healthy condition, viz., an abundant supply of pure, potable water.

Of course, every precaution has been taken to prevent accidental or wilful waste, by the periodical inspection of taps, pipes, &c., and where any defects have been found they have been promptly remedied.

IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were no deaths from any of the Notifiable Diseases during the year. As will be seen from Table III. seven cases were notified, viz., two of *Erysipelas*, three of *Scarlet Fever*, and two of *Enteric* (Typhoid) Fever. The two Enteric cases were removed from outside the District to your Cottage Hospital, so that they cannot be said to have arisen in your District, although they were notified to me. The duty of ascertaining the origin of these two cases devolved upon the officials of another Sanitary Authority, and to them particulars of the cases were promptly communicated. As mentioned in the Report for 1908, no case of Typhoid has been notified in Budleigh Salterton since 1904, and even in that instance the disease was contracted elsewhere, as in the two cases reported above. It goes without saying that the freedom of the District

from this dreaded disease for so many years in succession is an excellent advertisement, and one which is doubtless not overlooked by those seeking a watering-place in which to reside.

The usual preventive measures are invariably taken when any infectious case is reported, and in this connection Pulmonary Consumption is included. These measures are :—

- (a) Disinfection of the premises with Formalin after recovery or removal to Sanatorium.
- (b) Destruction of bedding, clothing, &c., when thought necessary.
- (c) Gratuitous bacteriological examination in suspected cases.
- (d) Domiciliary visits by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector as soon as notification has been received.
- (e) Exclusion of children from school from infected houses.

The agreement with the authorities of the Exeter Sanatorium to admit patients suffering from infectious disease to that Institution for the sum of 25/- per week works well, and is perfectly satisfactory. Moreover, if the disbursement in the future is as small as in the past, the economy of the arrangement is very evident.

MILK SUPPLY.—During the transit of milk from the cow to the consumer there are many vulnerable points at which contamination of the fluid may occur. We have endeavoured to reduce the number of these points, as far as possible, by systematic inspection of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, and the various utensils used in the storage and distribution of the commodity. There are some diseases which are peculiarly liable to be associated with contaminated milk, and their absence in your District goes far to prove that our work of inspection, &c., is not altogether in vain.

V. CONDITION OF HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

No cases of overcrowding or of serious sanitary defects have come under my notice during the year. The building trade has been fairly brisk, and all new houses have been erected strictly in accordance with the bye-laws, thus ensuring adequate ventilation, air space and efficient drainage.

VI. SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.

The geological configuration of the District, with its steep fall towards the sea, renders the removal of sewage a comparatively simple matter, but its ultimate disposal is, up to the present time, a problem which has not been satisfactorily solved. Many complaints have been made of the smells caused by the reflux of sewage on to the beach. It is within your memory that considerable sums of money have been spent in endeavouring to ascertain the best method of disposal. You have now decided to lengthen the present outfall, and the work is in hand. It is proposed to take out the defective pipes and put in new ones, making the outfall 64 feet in length, which will have the effect of always leaving the end of the outfall below the sea level at low tide. The contract price for this extension is £195, and up to date 40 feet have been laid. It is to be hoped that this will prove a real and lasting solution of the problem.

Little Knowle Sewer is working satisfactorily.

House refuse is collected and removed twice a week, and no complaints of forgetfulness or inattention on the part of your employés have reached me. An alteration which will be a great improvement to the town is contemplated—I refer to the *Brook Scheme*. It is proposed to build a brick culvert to carry the road over a portion of the brook, facing the Police Station. This is, admittedly, a dangerous corner, and the alteration is urgently required. The remainder of the brook below the culvert will be concreted.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

There are no Factories in the District, and only a few Workshops and Workplaces. Premises which come within the meaning of the Act have been inspected, and no faults have been found.

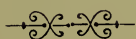
In conclusion, I think the condition of the District during 1909 has been quite satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. Of the registered deaths, 17 out of the total of 30 were of persons over 65 years of age, the average being 77 years, and the death-rate was less than that for the previous ten years. There were no deaths from any of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and only one from the Zymotic group. If the record for 1910 is as good as that for 1909 there will be little reason to complain of the healthiness of the District, and its suitability for children and invalids, as well as for those who wish to live in a quiet place where the social surroundings are congenial and the facilities for pleasure and exercise ample.

I have to thank your Surveyor, Mr. Holden, for his help in the compilation of this Report, and our thanks are due to the other servants of the Council who have performed their duties so satisfactorily.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CLARENCE BEESLEY, D.P.H. (Cantab.), M.O.H.



SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUDLEIGH
SALTERTON DURING 1909.

Nuisances Detected..	..	..	..	4
Nuisances Abated ..	..	..	..	4
Slaughter Houses Inspected..	..	..	..	3
Bakehouses Inspected	..	..	..	4
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Inspected	..	..	..	6
Houses connected with Mains	..	..	..	12
Houses connected with Sewers	..	..	..	2
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ..	..	..	..	4
New Lamps fixed and in hand	..	..	..	9
New Buildings erected	..	..	..	9
Sewers and Drains Tested ..	..	..	..	14
Houses disinfected after Illness	..	..	..	3
New Water Mains, in hand..	..	..	..	1,400 feet
New Sewers	..	..	..	1
Number of New Houses	..	..	..	9

J. B. HOLDEN,

Surveyor.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 & PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Under 1 Year of Age.		Rate.				Num-ber.	Rate.
					Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Num-ber.						
1899	1,880	20	11.1	2	100.0	34	18.8	..	..	..	34	18.8
1900	1,883	18	10.0	2	111.1	26	14.4	..	..	..	26	14.4
1901	1,885	23	12.2	1	43.4	34	18.0	..	..	..	34	18.0
1902	1,897	25	13.1	0	0.0	21	11.0	1	..	..	21	11.0
1903	1,910	34	17.8	3	88.2	28	14.6	3	..	..	28	14.6
1904	1,947	34	17.0	1	29.4	32	16.4	2	..	..	32	16.4
1905	1,987	35	18.6	2	56.7	35	17.6	5	..	..	35	17.6
1906	2,001	33	16.2	1	30.3	31	15.4	3	..	..	31	15.4
1907	2,024	29	14.3	0	0.0	31	15.3	1	..	..	31	15.3
1908	2,160	30	13.8	1	33.3	40	18.5	3	..	..	40	18.5
Averages for years 1899 1908.	1,957	28	14.4	1.3	49.2	31.2	16.0	2.6	..	..	31.2	16.0
1909	2,200	33	15.0	1	30.3	30	13.6	1	..	..	30	13.6

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1909.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Scarlet Fever ..	3	..	..	2	..	1	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	7	..	..	4	..	3	..

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever {	Typhus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteric ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Pleurisy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Venereal Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Accidents ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Suicides ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senile Decay ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	7	..	..	..	..	2	5	..
All other causes ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
All causes ..	30	1	1	..	1	8	19	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

[illegible]

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	..	..	..
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	8	..	..
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	2	..	..
Total ..	10	..	..

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary { insufficient	Nil.	..	..	..
accom- { unsuitable or defective .. .. .		..	..	..
modation { not separate for sexes .. .. .		..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	..	..	..	..
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this report)	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..

